

Kuwait denies undercutting oil prices

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait denied Sunday that it had undercut official OPEC prices as oil industry experts said Gulf Oil Corporation of the United States was selling some of the country's crude at almost \$4 a barrel discount. Kuwait's chief government spokesman, Abdul Aziz Hussein, told reporters after a cabinet meeting: "I have no information about any price cuts. We still abide by official OPEC prices." The industry experts said Gulf Oil Corporation had sold some Kuwaiti crude at prices prevailing on the spot or non-contract market of around \$28.50 a barrel compared with the official \$32.30 set by OPEC. They had no details of how much had been sold.

Volume 8 Number 2182

AMMAN, MONDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1983 — RABIA THANI 24, 1403

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Ghali, Numeiri discuss Mideast

KHARTOUM (R) — Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali Sunday held talks with Sudan's President Jaafar Numeiri on Middle East developments and other issues of bilateral interest, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported. It said the Egyptian minister, who arrived in the Sudanese capital Sunday morning, handed President Numeiri a message from President Hosni Mubarak on the outcome of his recent talks in the United States, Canada, Britain and France.

Kreisley says PLO-Israel prisoner swap difficult

NEW YORK (R) — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisley said Sunday he feared a possible exchange of Palestinian and Israeli prisoners might be more difficult now that negotiations were no longer secret. Negotiations had been handled in secret for two months, until a military leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said in Damascus on Friday that the PLO had offered to hand over eight Israeli soldiers captured last summer in exchange for more than 5,000 Palestinians held by the Israelis. Mr. Kreisley told reporters that an agreement had been reached in principle for the exchange, but there was no agreement on a date or place or even the numbers to be involved. He said he had agreed to act as go-between "for humanitarian reasons."

E. German aid to Egypt under study

CAIRO (R) — Possible East German assistance for Egypt's five-year development plan was discussed Sunday in a meeting between Egyptian Minister of Industry Fuad Abu Zagha and East Germany's Minister of Foreign Trade Horst Seelle. The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted Mr. Abu Zagha as saying Egypt was seeking the cooperation of the East European state in some projects through the transfer of German technology to Egypt. The agency did not elaborate. Egypt recently announced a \$41-billion five year plan and has since been seeking assistance for its implementation from various industrialised countries and international money organisations. The East German minister arrived here on Friday for four days of talks with Egyptian officials following his trips to South and North Yemen.

Mustafa Dudin leaves for U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Mustafa Dudin, head of Israeli-sponsored village leagues in the occupied West Bank, left Sunday for the United States on a visit that has been postponed several times because U.S. officials have refused to meet him. Mr. Dudin told reporters he hoped to talk with U.S. senators and congressmen about mobilising aid for village development projects. Israeli authorities in the West Bank have encouraged the leagues in an attempt to offset the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the occupied territory, but they are rejected by the majority of West Bank Arabs.

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Officials said they saw Mr.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جريدة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Spit in 15s

Petren launches fund-raising

SANAA (R) — North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh flew to neighbouring Saudi Arabia Sunday at the start of a fund-raising campaign to rebuild vast areas of his country which were devastated by an earthquake last December. He said on departure North Yemen needed aid from friendly countries for reconstruction. The quake, which killed 3,000 people, caused damage officially estimated at \$3 billion. President Saleh was met at Jeddah airport by King Fahd. It was not known whether the Yemeni leader planned visits to other countries. Saudi Arabia, North Yemen's major financial backer, donated \$30 million in cash as well as emergency relief aid for the quake victims.

PLO official says peacekeepers inadequate

'Palestinians, Lebanese may adopt security measures'

BEIRUT (R) — An official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Sunday Palestinians and Lebanese might have to adopt their own security measures after a bomb blast Saturday at a PLO office in which 20 people died.

Shafiq Al Hout, Beirut representative of the PLO, said it was the right of civilians to protect themselves if the multinational force now stationed in Beirut failed to do the job.

Whips of smoke still rose from the burnt-out offices of the PLO-affiliated Palestine Research Centre in Central Beirut Sunday, some 24 hours after the massive car bomb went off. More than 100 people were reported wounded in the explosion.

Mr. Hout was speaking on the steps of a church where he was attending the funeral of one of the dead — the wife of the centre's director.

Referring to the multinational force of United States, French and Italian troops, he said: "If these three countries fail in their task, then I think it is the right of the Palestinians and Lebanese in this part of the city to take measures to make sure that their civilians can live in peace and security."

Dutch foreign minister to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Den Broek is expected to visit Jordan as part of a five-nation Middle East tour scheduled to begin this week, Reuters reported from Amsterdam Sunday.

The news agency said that Mr. Van Den Broek may hold informal discussions with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) during the 10-day trip.

Mr. Van Den Broek arrives in Oman Tuesday and is also expected to visit Lebanon, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Shamir in Bonn to pursue better ties

BONN (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir arrived in Bonn Sunday for two days of talks likely to centre on Middle East peace moves and developing the recent improvement in Israeli-West German relations.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who greeted Mr. Shamir on his arrival in Bonn, said in a statement that the Middle East had entered a decisive stage and that chances for peace should be seized.

He said his talks with Mr. Shamir Monday would centre on the negotiations on troop withdrawals from Lebanon and on peace proposals for the region.

West German diplomats have said Mr. Genscher would urge Mr. Shamir to respond positively to President Reagan's peace plan, which would allow Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan.

Mr. Bush's reiteration here of his remark in Geneva that the zero option was not a "take-it-or-leave-it proposition" as an important shift in U.S. policy.

Moscow has repeatedly rejected the zero option, and leading Italian and West German politicians have recently suggested there could be some intermediate stage towards this goal.

The officials said Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo, who held preliminary talks with the vice-president Saturday night, intended to explore fully what sort of compromise might be acceptable in the light of Mr. Bush's indications during his tour that the zero option could be adapted.

Mr. Bush is due to hold talks with Mr. Colombo on Monday before meetings with Pope John Paul and Socialist President Sandro Pertini.

Officials said they saw Mr.

Cairo hopes peace talks will start early March

BEIRUT (R) — Egyptian Ambassador to Washington Ashraf Ghorbal was quoted Sunday as saying he hoped a Middle East peace process with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team would be launched in early March.

The main right-wing Christian militia known as the Lebanese Forces would not confirm the PSP claim but admitted suffering some setbacks. A spokesman said the fighting was the heaviest for several weeks.

Radio Free Lebanon, voice of the Christian right-wing militia, accused Israeli forces of siding with the "socialists and communists" who it said were setting fire to Christian houses in Aley.

The charge came as a surprise since the Israelis have usually been accused by the Druzes of helping the Christians, with whom they have a long history of cooperation.

Radio stations also reported shelling between the Christian stronghold of Souq Al Ghurb just west of Aley and the Druze town of Aitayat, as well as between rival villages on the outskirts of Beirut.

The two sides have been battling for superiority since Israel's June invasion upset the local power balance and allowed the Christian militia to return. But little movement has been reported on the ground.

Asked if Israel, which has rejected the Reagan plan, might refuse to join such talks, Mr. Ghorbal said: "I think the pressure on Israel, even from the Jewish community, will be so immense that they will not be able to hold back."

Mr. Reagan's plan calls for security police offices in Rabat. "I was submitted to physical pressures like deprivation of sleep. The questions were always the same: give us your sources, give us names. Of course, I didn't say

anything," he said.

His article questioned the official version of how Gen. Ahmad Dini, commander-in-chief of Moroccan forces in the Western Sahara, died in a car crash in the southern city of Marrakesh on Jan. 25.

An official statement quoted by the Moroccan news agency MAP said the explosion order was issued after King Hassan intervened to halt legal action.

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FEATURES

Reagan's 'colossal ego' goes up for sale

By Ronald Clarke
Reuter

SACRAMENTO, California — President Reagan, then governor of California, and his wife Nancy, broke ground for the state's new governor's mansion eight years ago, but today its only occupants are the caretakers and their pet dog.

At the ceremony, the Reagans dug into the earth with gold-painted shovels: "We did it, honey," Mrs. Reagan said when the state took over the former mansion.

The affair started in 1966 when Mr. Reagan was elected governor and moved with his family into an elegant Victorian-style home in the centre of Sacramento.

The wooden house, with its rounded bay windows, had been the residence of California's governors since it was bought by the state in 1903 for \$32,500.

Within three months, the Reagans had moved out. Mrs. Reagan said the house was a dusty old fire trap, unsafe for her eight-year-old son, Ron, to play in.

The Reagans exchanged the house with its six Italian marble fireplaces — ruled by a fire marshal to be unsafe to use — for a Tudor-style mansion on 45th

who act as caretakers and their dog.

The mansion has been described by critics as the "Taj Mahal" and as a monument to Mr. Reagan's "colossal ego".

The Democrat-controlled state legislature cannot decide whether to sell the mansion, allow Mr. Deukmejian, a Republican like Mr. Reagan, to move in or to restore the former mansion.

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Street, a tree-lined road of millionaires' homes known as the "fabulous forties."

The new home had 15 rooms and something that had been missing from the old place — a swimming pool.

The house was leased to the Reagans by a group of friends and supporters who had bought it.

At first, Mr. Reagan paid the rent of \$15,000 a year, but later the state took over the payments.

The Reagans began campaigning for a new mansion. Supporters formed a committee to raise \$550,000 to build it. A site was chosen, with Mrs. Reagan's blessing, on a river bank at Carmichael, 24 kilometres from the state capital.

A controversy started when the committee sent letters to 495 Sacramento lobbyists, who protect and work for the interests of industries and other groups, asking them to each contribute \$1,000 to the fund.

Another issue arose when American Indians said the building would be built on an old Maudi Indian village and burial ground.

"If there is such a village, it is 3,000 years old and I doubt if anyone can trace its ancestry back to then," Mr. Reagan told reporters.

Archaeologists said after an excavation there was no clear evidence there had been an Indian village on the site.

By the time the mansion, with its eight bedrooms, eight bathrooms, two dining rooms, two kitchens and two studies, had been completed, Mr. Reagan was out of office.

His successor, Jerry Brown, refused to live in the mansion. He called it the "Taj Mahal."

Mr. Brown, a bachelor who drove a medium-sized car instead of the governor's Cadillac and flew economy instead of first class, moved into a two-bedroom flat near his office.

The mansion was left unwanted, in the hands of caretakers.

State Senator Robert Alquist, a Democrat like Mr. Brown, launched a campaign to sell the mansion. Referring to Mr. Reagan, he declared: "The mansion is a monument to the colossal ego of our former governor."

The state legislature voted to sell the mansion, but the highest bid received was \$25,000 below the asking price of \$1.5 million, set by the state.

Mr. Deukmejian says he wants to live in the mansion with his family. State officials say the mansion needs another million dollars spent on carpets, curtains and other items.

Mr. Deukmejian has said he could raise the million dollars in private contributions, but political observers have said this might not be the right time politically to do so.

With the state facing a budget deficit of at least \$1.5 billion and with 1.3 million people in the state out of work, Mr. Deukmejian should not be seen to be lavishing so much money on a home, the observers believe.

The mansion goes up for sale again next month.

Senator Alquist is proposing that the money from the sale of the mansion should be used to move the old governor's mansion to a new site, where it could be restored as the governor's home.

Can Mexico moralise police force

By Robert Block
Reuter

MEXICO — President Miguel De La Madrid has promised to "modernise and moralise" the Mexican police, who many people say commit more crimes than they prevent.

Arturo Jara Perez, an investigative police officer, supplementing his meagre salary by driving a taxi, shook his head and smiled at the passenger.

"Sure the Mexican police are corrupt," he said. "Many of them are rats, but there is nothing anyone can do to stop it."

President De La Madrid disagrees on the last point. In January he abolished the Investigative Division for the Prevention of Delinquency (DIPD). Made up of plainclothes officers, the DIPD has a reputation for ruthlessness and brutality.

The president disbanded the DIPD for abusing its authority and said the government must take sure the police "guarantee public safety and order rather than cause their breakdown."

The most common crime the

police commit is the on-the-spot traffic fine known as the "morrida" or "the bite," which ends up in the officer's pocket instead of in the city coffers.

Beatrice Suarez, a director of the Mexico City rape centre, told Reuters policemen almost never appear in the dock. She added that of the estimated 10,000 rapes in Mexico City, close to half are committed by police.

A police spokesman said that he did not know what kind of increase police pay would get under the austerity measures taken to deal with Mexico's worst economic crisis for years.

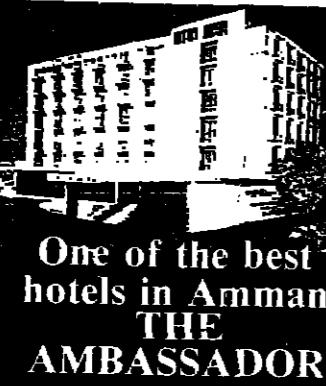
Still, many Mexicans were heartened by the president's public pledge to wipe out police corruption and crime.

The day after the presidential decree, press reports in local papers said 1,700 officers of the disbanded DIPD were being transferred to the investigative division of the justice department. Another said some 800 will go back on the beat.

Another editorial said the dark image of the police even affected children: When playing cops and robbers, they never know who are the bad guys and who are the good.

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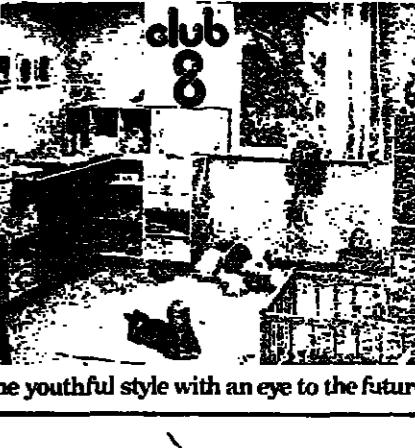
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العنة ٦

Jordan Times

An independent and politically unbiased English language newspaper in Jordan.

Responsible Editor: MOHAMMAD AMAD
Managing Editor: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH
Contributing Editor: RAMI G. KHOURE

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. 065320 666265. 21497 ALRAJHI. JORTIMES, Amman, Jordan.

The Jordan Times is published daily except Saturday. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Hitting back with statements

WHEN it comes to devotion and truthfulness for the Palestinian cause, it is wrong to divide patriotic Palestinians between ideologues and pragmatists, radicals and moderates. In the current search for peace in the Middle East, it is true that different groups in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have different opinions, even positions, on the best way to proceed towards achieving their goals, but as far as can be told the Palestinians remain united on the necessity to recover the land as their top priority.

Most Palestinians, we believe, realise today's facts. The rest either want to ignore or wish to challenge them. A clear example of the second category is those PLO groups which were participating in a Libyan-sponsored congress of the so-called "Arab opposition" during the past few days.

"No truce, no negotiations, no recognition of the Zionist enemy. The conflict between the Arab World and the Zionist enemy is a matter of existence, not of borders. There is no possibility of any settlement or co-existence between them," declared the Tripoli congress in a communiqué issued on Saturday. As big

brother Muammar Qaddafi had just returned from a successful trip to Palestine on a Libyan passport.

Ideology is fine, but not demagogic and adventurism. Qaddafi can be his own man, but the Palestinians with him cannot be that serious. Do they all know what is happening on the ground? Or would they rather challenge it?

Israel everyday introduces new Jewish facts of life in Palestine and the rejections hit back in words and statements. The Zionist enemy says it will not trade territory for peace, and actually insists on keeping the land as the price for leaving the Arabs in peace, and the Tripoli meetings counter with verbal threats and empty promises of recovering the land and regaining the rights in a matter of days rather than months.

It is not because we disbelieve in going to the ends of the earth for Palestinian rights that we attack the Libyan-sponsored congress. It is our strong belief, however, that peace deserves one more chance before moderation and logic could become things of the past.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. credibility rests on Habib's return

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib returns to the Middle East Monday. His visit to Israel will be where he resumes his mission, made more difficult by the Israeli's intransigent stand and the impossible conditions they have made for a withdrawal from Lebanon.

It is still too early to judge the forthcoming visit of President Reagan's special envoy, and to decide whether he will be able to pressure Israel into changing its hardline stand. Nonetheless, it is obvious that the U.S. administration has not proved that it is capable of taming the Israeli extremists regarding a withdrawal from Lebanon. It is also obvious that evidence of such a capability is badly needed. This will demonstrate the U.S. administration's ability to make a practical success of President Reagan's initiative in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Village League visit casts more doubt on U.S. aims

The invitation received by some Village-Leagues' representatives, whether coming from U.S. senators or the executive branch proves only one thing. The U.S. government is willing to welcome such lackeys otherwise an entrance visa to the U.S. would never have been granted.

Thus it is indeed ironic that the U.S. government still refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and rejects the idea of making any official contacts with it. The PLO has gained world-wide recognition, and the Arab countries have long regarded it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people in turn have invariably demonstrated their faith in the PLO, in spite of all the persecution and sufferings they have had to endure for such an opinion.

The Village Leagues, that is the tools of the Israeli occupation authorities, have been openly

denounced by the Palestinians as traitors to their country and people, in spite of the repressive measures that this action has brought upon them.

Yet, the U.S. government, which says that it wants representative Palestinians to talk to, disregards all the above-mentioned considerations in welcoming the league delegation. It would not surprise us if these people were soon hailed as representative of the Palestinian community by the U.S. government.

The U.S. indifference towards Israel's attitude regarding the Taba dispute with Egypt, the American passivity towards the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its continued criminal presence and practices, and lastly the recent American gesture towards enemies of the Palestinian people like those in the Village Leagues do not seem to promote confidence in Americans proclaimed role of Mideast peacemaker.

Lessons learned from the Falklands war

Argentina is swiftly rearming after its defeat

By Robert Powell
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina is swiftly rearming after its defeat in the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict six months ago and the air force's depleted fighter squadrons are already back to full strength.

Diplomatic and arms trade sources say Argentina has taken delivery of about 54 Mirage-111 fighter-bombers in recent months, to replace a similar number of Mirages and A-4 Skyhawks shot down during the brief war with Britain.

Peru has sold its close ally 10 Mirages and the rest have been supplied by Israel, which manufactures the aircraft under licence from France. The latest batch of 19 Mirages arrived from Israel in December, along with a consignment of weaponry for the planes supplied by France, the sources said.

Argentina's arms purchasing campaign goes much further than simply replacing equipment lost in the fighting. Battle experience revealed crucial gaps in Argentine defence capacity and military commanders are determined to buy large amounts of sophisticated new equipment to make good this deficiency.

The main priorities are

maritime patrol aircraft, anti-aircraft defences, transport and attack helicopters and infra-red sights for accurate night firing, the sources said. The armed forces are anxious to place firm orders for this equipment soon so as to complete what they regard as essential arms purchases before returning the country to elected government at the end of this year.

Some of the new equipment has already started flowing in. Military sources said the Argentine navy recently bought a number of Lockheed Electra airliners second-hand from the United States for conversion into maritime patrol aircraft. They are being fitted with sophisticated radar systems, acquired separately, and will be used to detect shipping within several hundred miles of the Argentine coast.

Lack of information

Argentina suffered from a lack of adequate maritime patrol aircraft during the Falklands conflict and was forced to borrow two twin-engined Bandeirante patrol planes from Brazil. Small civilian jets were also requisitioned to scan the sea area between the Falklands and the Argentine coast.

The air force complained that a lack of information about suitable

targets prevented it from attacking the 110-ship British task force on 13 of the 45 days of the fighting.

Aircraft played a major role in the campaign and Argentine forces in the Falklands suffered demoralising daily raids from British Harrier jets which their anti-

aircraft batteries were unable to keep at bay.

The only types of anti-aircraft weapons to prove effective against the onslaught were Franco-German Roland missiles and Swiss Oerlikon radar-guided rapid-fire canon. According to arms trade sources, large orders for more of both are on the way.

The Argentine army was also impressed by Britain's tactical use of helicopters to move combat units speedily over difficult terrain near the battle front. Diplomatic sources said Argentina had recently started training a brigade of heli-borne commandos near Cordoba, 700 km north-west of Buenos Aires.

The brigade is to be equipped with about 24 Puma heavy transport helicopters and some smaller Gazelles, for which Argentina is negotiating with France, the sources said. France has emerged as one of Argentina's main arms suppliers since the Falklands conflict, especially of aircraft. Last

November it delivered nine more super Etandard naval attack aircraft to the Argentine fleet air arm, together with their complement of Exocet missiles, responsible for sinking two British ships during the Falklands conflict.

Deliveries

Other reports of deliveries of military aircraft to Argentina since the end of the conflict include three Puma helicopters acquired in France and a number of Lockheed C-130 transport planes, bought from the United States.

The navy, which lost a cruiser and submarine, both World War

II vintage, in the Falklands war, is about to reap the fruits of a major re-equipment programme ordered four years ago after a dispute with Chile over the Beagle channel.

The first of four frigates being built in West Germany is to be handed over this year, along with the first of two submarines. The navy is also building six corvettes and four submarines with German technical assistance in its own shipyards.

The Argentine navy now has only two submarines in serviceable condition, but the rapid expansion of its submarine force over the next two years will pose a serious threat to British naval ships operating in the Falklands.

Central bank sources estimate that arms purchases between 1978 and 1982 account for about \$ 5 billion of Argentina's \$43 billion external debt. However, the amount being spent on arms purchases as a direct result of the Falklands conflict is difficult to gauge.

According to arms trade and diplomatic sources, the real value of arms purchases is heavily inflated by the cost of bribes to officers who arrange the deals. Some purchases are also paid for out of secret funds which do not

appear in published government accounts.

Domestic industry

Arms dealers say Argentina's foreign debt crisis and deep economic recession are making it difficult for the armed forces to obtain large amounts of foreign currency for cash purchases. The domestic arms industry produces a medium-sized tank and the Pucara counter-insurgency aircraft, with heavy inputs of West German and French parts and technology.

Argentina is also building a prototype jet trainer, the IA-62, in collaboration with the West German firm Dornier. The first plane is due to make its maiden flight in late 1984.

State arms factories manufacture small arms, machine guns, some heavy artillery pieces and ammunition.

Longer-term Argentine defence plans include the replacement of Mirage 111s and Skyhawks by more sophisticated supersonic fighters. According to diplomatic sources, the U.S. F-5 Tigerhawk, the French Mirage 2000 and even Soviet aircraft have been considered, but no orders are expected in the near future.

By T.A. Jaber

DE FACTONOMICS

Commendable start for Jordanian mobilisation

The National Mobilisation Committee of the National Consultative Council (NCC) is sponsoring five symposia on various dimensions of Jordanian mobilisation. The first symposium was held last Thursday. Three prominent speakers — the Minister of Labour, Dr. Jawad Anani, Mr. Amin Shokair, businessman and a member of the NCC, and Dr. Ibrahim Badran, director of the Department of Energy at the Ministry of Industry and Trade — took part in the symposium.

The motive to participate is a legitimate and healthy one. It should be nourished and guided towards national objectives. We need continued and additional platforms for wider participation and involvement.

At one time, during the symposium a proposition was made to establish a cultural club for government employees who account for 45 per cent of the total labour force.

Such club would serve, if properly directed, as an excellent platform for testing public

opinion, disseminating information and promoting unified positions towards national issues.

The National Mobilisation Committee offers a commendable channel through which wider participation can be generated. However, it would have been much more relevant and effective if the first symposium dealt with the concept of national mobilisation, its requirements, its overall objectives and its framework.

Failure to clear out these crucial guidelines led to different terms of reference not only for the speakers but also the audience. There is a risk that this may be repeated in the coming symposia which would lead to useful but fragmented and unsorted discussions.

Now that the economic dimensions were raised first, the National Mobilisation Committee is called upon to formulate, in cooperation with others, and on the basis of the

five symposia, the needed framework and specifics of national mobilisation in Jordan. A working paper on this matter should be prepared, discussed publicly and hopefully adopted. In this manner, our efforts, now and in the future, will not wither away.

Many of the issues raised last Thursday represent major questions in the Jordanian economy that are not yet fully settled. The speakers presented their own implicit preferences about these questions without attempting to give final answers. Accordingly, these issues have to be debated further and resolved. There are some examples of major issues:

— If Jordan has adopted a mixed economic system, how would this system evolve given the fact that mixed economies cover a range of alternatives rather than a particular option?

— How could we improve the linkages between the defence requirements on the one hand

and internal industrial and other activities on the other?

— The population question in terms of its size, geographical and age distribution and the resulting low percentage of the population as part of the labour force.

— Where should Jordan concentrate its development efforts? This question led to a debate on commodity sectors vis-a-vis services.

— The need for a reconsideration of the government policies towards imports, luxury consumption, income distribution and planning techniques.

The meeting was more successful in raising these and other issues than settling them. It created diverse reactions particularly since the speakers did not follow a uniformed style in their appraisal. As concerns other similar activities, one tends to conclude that more of such discussions are needed and should be organised.

Shultz assures Japan

By Yuko Nakamikado
Reuter

TOKYO — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz apparently succeeded during a three-day visit to Tokyo in allaying Japanese fears about the Reagan administration's policy towards nuclear missile talks with the Soviet Union.

But differences persisted on trade and defence. Mr. Shultz, who later left for China, told Japanese leaders they must make further efforts to improve Japan's defences and open its markets to U.S. imports.

The Japanese have expressed concern that Moscow may move some of its SS-20 medium-range missiles from Europe to Siberia. But Mr. Shultz assured Prime



Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe that in seeking nuclear weapons cuts, the Reagan administration would never agree to a deal that might appear good for Europe but bad for Asia.

He told them the U.S. would negotiate with the Soviet Union from a world viewpoint. Japanese and U.S. officials said.

A foreign ministry spokesman described Mr. Shultz's assurance on the SS-20s as "The best conceivable one under the present circumstances while the Geneva Intermediate Nuclear Force (INF) talks are under way."

For their part, Japan's leaders backed President Reagan's "zero option" proposal, which calls on the Soviet Union to dismantle its medium-range missiles aimed at Western Europe in exchange for abandoning plans to deploy U.S. Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in five West European countries.

According to Japanese officials, Mr. Shultz said Washington would keep the zero option proposal on the table, at least for the present. The secretary of state told reporters

Mr. Shultz's visit, the first leg of a tour that will also take him to South Korea and Hong Kong as well as Peking, followed up talks between Mr. Reagan and Mr. Nakasone in Washington last month.

Mr. Nakasone said in Washington he wanted to make Japan an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" capable of stopping Soviet backfire bombers and bottling up the Soviet Union's Far East fleet in the Sea of Japan.

But Mr. Shultz told a press conference that Japan's 6.5 per cent increase in defence spending for the fiscal year starting in April was insufficient. "A greater effort is necessary for Japan to fulfil its mission to defend its air and sea lanes," he said.

Mr. Nakasone has already come under attack from opposition leaders claiming Japan is being drawn into Washington's global military strategy and is in danger of being committed to collective security, which the Japanese constitution bans. Mr. Shultz denied there was a trade-off between Japan's defence build-up and a solution to its trade disputes with the U.S.

He renewed U.S. demands, however, for Tokyo to take further measures to open its markets to U.S. goods, particularly beef and citrus fruits. Mr. Shultz stressed the Reagan administration wanted the Japanese government to put into practice its pledges on opening its markets. The United States had a huge trade deficit with Japan last year — \$18.9 billion according to U.S. statistics, \$12.1 billion according to the Japanese.

U.S. trade representative William Brock is due in Tokyo on Feb. 10 to put more pressure on the government to take action. His visit coincides with a stopover by Mr. Shultz when he will brief Japanese officials on his Peking visit.

LETTERS

Just an educational proposal.

To the Editor:

I suggest that the Ministry of Education change the dates for the academic year. All schools, colleges and universities should be open between April 1 and Dec. 31. The annual vacation would then correspondingly run from Jan. 1 to March 31. There are many advantages to be gained from such a change of the academic year.

— Our students would not be snow or rain-bound and have their studies halted from time to time, as is now the case every winter.

— They would not have to freeze in cold schoolrooms without central heating.

— The children and teenagers could stay away from dangerous icy roads and hence be protected from traffic accidents.

This is just a proposal, but I hope our Ministry of Education will consider it most carefully.

Ali Mansour
Jordan University
Amman

Ali Mansour

JORDAN TIMES

Beginning a series on training and employment opportunities for women in Jordan

A woman's place is--where?

This article is based on two sample surveys undertaken for the Ministry of Labour and the Vocational Training Corporation, with the assistance of a USAID grant, under the direction of project manager Dr. Abdalla Malki.

The economic development achieved by Jordan during the seventies absorbed surplus labour, thus bringing the labour market to more or less full employment. The Jordanian labour market has in fact suffered from quantitative shortages which have been met by importing labour from abroad. But it is still suffering from certain qualitative shortages whose nature has not subsided.

Under such conditions, countries like Jordan draw, sooner or later, on their stock of female manpower in an attempt to increase women's participation in the labour force as a means of meeting existing shortages. Simultaneously, they launch on the job-training programmes in a quest to break qualitative bottlenecks through upgrading the skills of workers already in employment.

The establishment of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) in 1976 showed the preoccupation of labour policy-makers with upgrading the competence of labourers already at work--through specially tailored in-service training programmes--and that of newcomers to the market, through vocational apprenticeship courses.

It is undoubtedly true that increasing the participation of women in the labour force can

neither be decreed nor achieved overnight. This is a process which is evolutionary in nature and therefore slow, and is a function of a set of variables which are interwoven into the social fabric. These particularly reflect the social value-system, and attitudes towards work in general and women's work in particular, in addition to pure economic imperatives, (particularly inflation), and individual ambitions and aspirations.

No conflict

No matter how reasonable and strong the above arguments are and how rigid the social value-system is, certain kinds of work are by their very nature appropriate to women and do not conflict with the disciplines of even a rigid value-system. It is possible therefore to raise the participation rate of women in the labour force through encouraging more women to engage in those very sorts of activities which do not impinge upon the prevalent value-system.

Social values and attitudes are not necessarily the main impediments to a woman working outside the home. Logistical factors could be at work in a good many cases (lack of transportation, ignorance of available job opportunities, absence of child care facilities, etc.)

As the industrial revolution proceeds, some social values, no matter how deep-seated they are, start to weaken or crumble altogether, thus giving way to a wider participation of women in the labour force. Inflation, one might say, is the most conspicuous

economic variable which operates to transform the composition of the labour market in any society. By raising the cost of living, inflation compels a greater number of households to send more of their members to the labour market.

Some of the newcomers to the market happen to be women who so far have opted to stay at home. In consequence, the female participation rate moves up. Because Jordan has already entered the era of inflation, one might safely and justifiably conclude that women's participation rate is bound to creep up. The question is of magnitude rather than of direction.

It is plausible to say that Jordanian policy makers have become concerned to meet labour shortages through increasing participation of women in the labour force, as an alternative to labour imports. This new concern and the above-mentioned impacts and implications of inflation strongly suggest that the employment of women will constitute one of the central future issues.

Important questions

To conceive the potential developments in this sphere, it will be useful to familiarise ourselves, at this stage, with a number of questions including:

1- The attitude of women, their guardians and employers towards women employment.

2- The kind of jobs preferred by women and what motivates them to seek employment.

3- Employment terms and conditions conducive to a higher rate

of women's participation in the labour force.

4- The kind of vocational training and vocational apprenticeships to be provided for women, which are at the same time compatible with the current needs of the Jordanian economy.

5- Performance of women currently employed.

6- The positive and negative aspects of women's employment.

7- The factors that have impeded or might impede the increase in the rate of women's participation in the labour force.

8- The effects on women's willingness to work of certain variables, namely religion, educational level and environment (rural or urban).

This survey study was conducted to shed light on some of the issues raised above.

The study was made up of two sample surveys. The first survey covered the female students in the 3rd preparatory class in the schools of the Amman-Zerqa area. Muslim students accounted for 94.5 per cent and Christian students for 5.5 per cent.

Around 61.0 per cent of the respondents felt that the increase in the number of women who work outside the home was a good thing for Jordan. The percentage of students who intended to seek a job outside the home reached 81.7 per cent but went up to 90.0 per cent for the Christian students against 81.3 per cent for Muslim students.

The motive for intention to work outside the home was:

firstly, avoidance of boredom;

secondly, supplementing the income of the family;

thirdly, increasing the personal income of the student herself and lastly proving female capabilities.

Supplementing the family income dominated the UNRWA school students, while increasing personal income dominated governmental school students. The other two motives (avoiding boredom and proving female capabilities) were most conspicuous among private school students.

Students' sample survey

The students' sample survey was based on statements collected from a sample of 3rd preparatory class female students for the school year 1980/81, in the Amman-Zerqa area. All girls' schools were included whether sponsored by the Ministry of Education (MOE), UNRWA, Ministry of Defence (MOD) or private sector. The survey did not include all girls' schools in Jordan due to time and financial limitations. The reason for picking 3rd

preparatory class female students was obviously the fact that this is the class after which students have the choice of pursuing either academic or vocational schooling.

The students' sample survey covered 4.1 per cent of the 3rd preparatory class female students in the Amman-Zerqa area. 13.1 per cent of the students interviewed lived in rural areas and 86.9 per cent in urban centres. Muslim students accounted for 94.5 per cent and Christian students for 5.5 per cent.

Around 89.3 per cent of the respondents felt that the increase in the number of women who work outside the home was a good thing for Jordan. The percentage of students who intended to seek a job outside the home reached 81.7 per cent but went up to 90.0 per cent for the Christian students against 81.3 per cent for Muslim students.

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Impact of religion

The survey produced some good data on the attitudes of the students' guardians towards their working outside the home. About 62.2 per cent of the students claimed their guardians approved the idea unconditionally. 16.8 per cent said their guardians disapproved. 13.8 per cent said their guardians approved their work under certain conditions, and the rest were undecided. The impact of religion was evident; guardians' disapprovals dropped to only 1.7 per cent for Christian students, as compared with 17.7 per cent for Muslim students. The reasons for disapproval were the conviction that "a woman's place is at home" (65.2 per cent), the inappropriateness for women to work at close quarters with men (26.5 per cent) and the going to and coming back from work unaccompanied, which was "not proper".

The study suggests that marriage adversely affects women's work outside the home because some women decide to leave work of their own accord after marriage. The percentage of students who planned to work after marriage reached 47.6 per cent which was far below the percentage of students who said they intended to work outside the home (81.7 per cent). The other reason why marriage adversely affects women's work is that some (19.2 per cent of them in our survey) would let their husbands make the decision. If he does not want them to work, they will quit work even though their own wish may be otherwise.

For the students interviewed, the preferred places of work were:

To be continued tomorrow



Teaching emerged from the survey as the favourite profession for girls (UNRWA photo)

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 ... Koran

18:30 ... Children's Programme

18:30 ... Sport

19:00 ... Muppet Show

19:30 ... Program Review

20:30 ... Armed Forces Programme

20:30 ... News in Arabic

21:00 ... Arabic Series

21:45 ... Panel Discussion

23:05 ... News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 ... French Programme

19:30 ... News in Jordan

19:30 ... News in Hebrew

20:30 ... Comedy: The Other 'A'f

21:00 ... One Hundred Great Paintings

21:10 ... Documentary: Hard Choices

22:00 ... Human Experiments

22:15 ... News in English

22:15 ... The Agatha Christie, Hour, The Girl in the Train

RADIO JORDAN

85.5 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9500 KHz, SW

67:20 ... The Belton Show

10:00 ... News Summary

12:00 ... News Summary

12:35 ... Pop Session

13:00 ... News Summary

14:00 ... Pop Session

14:45 ... News Bulletin

15:00 ... Peak Time

15:00 ... Current Hour

16:00 ... News Summary

16:05 ... Instrumentals, Old Favourites

17:00 ... First Spin

18:00 ... News Summary

18:35 ... Animal, Vegetable, Mineral

19:00 ... Newsdesk

19:30 ... Date with a Star

20:00 ... Evening Show

21:00 ... News Summary

21:30 ... News Summary

22:00 ... News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Belton

06:45 Letter from London 06:55

06:55 Newsdesk 07:00 World News 07:09

07:00 Newsdesk 07:00 World News 07:09

SPORTS

England loses hopes to compete in finals

Australia beats N. Zealand

PERTH (R) — A remarkable catch by Jeff Thomson ensured Australia beat New Zealand in the World Series cricket cup match here Sunday and ended England's hopes of competing in the best-of-three finals.

Australia's 27-run win gave them second place at the end of the 15-match preliminary series and they will now meet New Zealand, who led the qualifying table, in the finals starting in Sydney on Wednesday.

England needed New Zealand to win Sunday if they were to squeeze Australia out of the finals.

The prospect of this happening never looked brighter than when New Zealand's ninth-wicket pair John Morrison and Martin Snedden were together.

They joined up at 125 for eight in reply to Australia's 50-over tally of 191 for nine and quickly added 37. Thomson then made his decisive intervention when Snedden lofted Geoff Lawson over mid-on. He dashed 10 paces to his left and when he dropped the ball in important catch seemed to have gone begging. But somehow he managed to latch onto it with a despairing left-handed swipe.

When Lawson bowled Ewen

Chatfield two runs later New Zealand were all out for 164 with one ball of the 45th over remaining.

One of the most revealing statistics of an exciting match was that no batsman exceeded the 34 extras in Australia's innings. It underlined that the pitch was not altogether reliable and that the bowling was generally superior to the batting.

New Zealand's bowling effort would almost certainly have been even better had not Richard Hadlee left the field with a leg strain having taken one for seven in five overs.

Wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh, named man of the match after top scoring for Australia with 31 and taking four catches, said: "We were lucky Richard did not play out his 10 overs. I don't think we would have got a hundred if it hadn't been for that."

New Zealand captain Geoff Howarth said: "He felt a little bit of a twinge in the last two balls of his fifth over. As a precautionary measure we took him off."

The decision of the Australian selectors to call up a new first-wicket pair was rewarded with an opening stand of 65 between Graeme Wood and Steve Smith.

Australia then slipped to 118 for five. Hadlee achieving the main breakthrough when he bowled the dangerous David Hookes for 12, and it was left to Greg Chappell and Marsh, who added 41 for the sixth wicket, to give Australia's attack a total to 218.

Rodney Hogg bowled Howarth for eight when New Zealand started their innings. John Wright and Glenn Turner then took the score to 61 before Dennis Lillee made a telling contribution by removing Turner, for 30, and Jeff Crowe with successive balls.

The only other time New Zealand looked capable of making enough runs to win was when Morrison and Snedden were in partnership.

The result completed a dismal tour for the England team, who watched Sunday's match on television at their Sydney hotel. Their elimination from the World Series Cup followed their 2-1 defeat in the tests.

They now go on to New Zealand for three one-day internationals hoping they can start to solve some of their problems before the World Cup in England in June.

France advances towards Rugby Union Championship

LONDON (R) — French flair triumphed over Scottish spirit in Paris Saturday as France took a further step towards the five nations Rugby Union Championship.

But the French were given a severe fright by Scotland who held the home side to 15-15 until nine minutes from fulltime when left-winger Patrick Esteve powered through four Scottish defenders to score a try unopposed.

Scotland had their credit came back immediately to tie the game at 15-15 at halftime and the stage was set for a thrilling second half.

Fittingly it was another touch of French genius that decided the match, helped by some deplorable Scottish defence.

French captain Jean-Pierre Rives set up the maul, the ball was again flicked at high speed through the French line with fullback Serge Blanco making the extra man for Esteve to force his way through four Scottish defenders and score in the corner.

The remainder though showed few signs of the reputations that installed them as championship favourites before the season began.

Esteve, who is reputed to be able to run 100 metres in 11 seconds with his football boots on, was France's player of the match but fullback Serge Blanco was made some dazzling runs who not far behind him.

In Cardiff England looked set to celebrate their first win at the Arms Park since 1963 when winger John Carelton scored in the 13th minute after some slick passing by his Leicester clubmates Les Cusworth and Dusty Hare.

The game began explosively with the Scots forwards storming into their bigger and heavier opponents.

The visitors stunned the capacity Parc des Princes crowd when they quickly raced to a 12-6 lead

place of Gavaskar who has captained India for the past three years.

However Gavaskar, who has obviously been forced to take some of the blame for India's 3-0 defeat by Pakistan, retains his place in the side. The diminutive opener needs only three centuries to equal Australia's Sir Donald Bradman's record 29 test runs.

The team includes two newcomers, Gursharan Singh, a promising middle-order batsman, and reserve wicketkeeper Kiran More.

Gavaskar has been a prolific scorer on West Indian pitches, scoring 774 runs at the phenomenal average of 154.80 in his debut series 12 years ago.

The West Indian pace bowling was a lot friendlier in those days but Gavaskar has since shown that achievement was no fluke, considering that he alone of the world's great batsman has no chance of playing against Indian bowling.

European soccer championship: A test to Italy's credibility as world champs

LONDON (R) — Although their title is officially safe until 1986, Italy's credibility as champions of the world will be on the line in the European soccer championship this spring.

On Feb. 12 they meet Cyprus in Limassol. Failure to win will almost certainly put them out of the running for a place in the European finals in France next year. And anything less than a resounding victory will rekindle thoughts that Brazil is the rightful home of the World Cup trophy.

Italy blossomed under the Spanish sun but have withered this winter, collecting just two points from home draws against Czechoslovakia and Romania in group five — hardly the form of world champions.

A vast improvement will be needed with tough away games ahead against Romania, who head the section with five points from three matches, and Sweden in April and May.

Standings (games-points): Romania 3-5, Sweden 3-3, Czechoslovakia 2-2, Italy 2-2, Cyprus 2-0.

There will be a burst of activity in the seven groups in the coming months after an eight-week lull in the action and, like Italy, West Germany have something to prove.

The West Germans, reigning European champions and World Cup runners-up, are currently bottom of group six, trailing in the

wake of even Turkey and Albania, after an embarrassing 1-0 defeat by Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Arch-rivals Austria, meanwhile, have made a whirlwind start, winning their opening three

with a tally of 11-0.

West Germany must still be favoured to qualify for the finals but their three away games against

Albania, Turkey and Austria in March and April will be crucial.

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ECONOMY

China's oil output rises above target

PEKING (R) — China's oil production in January was 4.1 per cent over target at 8.84 million tonnes (64.5 million barrels) compared with a planned 8.5 million tonnes (62 million barrels), the New China News Agency reported.

It quoted an oil ministry spokesman as saying China should be able to hold production at around 100 million tonnes a year (two million barrels a day) up to 1985, as already announced.

But he said output had peaked at a number of old oil fields, and the increased water injection necessary meant a bigger proportion of water in the crude pumped out.

China's oil production totalled 102 million tonnes last year, a rise of 0.8 per cent but 3.8 per cent less than in the peak production year of 1979.

Creditors reschedule \$500m of Sudan's debt

PARIS (R) — Creditor countries have rescheduled around \$500 million of Sudan's debt due to be repaid in 1983, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

The sum, covering principal, interest and arrears, was rescheduled over 16 years with a four-year grace period by creditors, including the U.S., 13 European states and Japan, at a meeting in Paris this week. The rescheduling period is longer than normally granted to debtor countries because of Sudan's serious debt problems. In March last year creditors rescheduled Sudan's 1982 debt over a period of 10 years with a four-year grace period. Although a number of countries have larger debts, Sudan's debt, estimated at \$7 billion, is larger than its total export income, the sources said.

S. Africa abolishes dual rand rate, lifts financial controls

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa Saturday took what

Finance Minister Owen Horwood called a "giant step forward" in its monetary affairs by ending 22 years of exchange controls on non-residents and abolishing the dual rand rate from Monday.

Mr. Horwood called a surprise news conference — timed for the weekend when most world markets were closed — to announce the new financial measures.

He said he was certain they would be welcomed by foreign investors who had already poured 1.5 billion rand (\$1.4 billion) into South Africa since the so-called financial rand was introduced in 1979.

The financial rand, introduced as the blocked rand in 1961 after political unrest led to a massive outflow of capital, was the channel through which non-residents traded South African shares and assets.

On Friday, the financial rand was worth about 77.2 U.S. cents

and the commercial rand 92.9. Financial analysts expect the new unitary rand to open on Monday between those two rates.

Mr. Horwood also said that he believed the new measures would improve South Africa's already high credit rating among foreign investors and prove of great advantage to its economy.

Calling the move "a very important milestone" in South Africa's financial history, Mr. Horwood said "it is a great step — a giant step forward."

First reaction among financial analysts was that the move would create some confusion initially, but would increase foreign investors' confidence in South Africa, as they would be able to get money out of the country freely.

Mr. Horwood explained that the South African move followed what he called a dramatic improvement in its economy, "a tremendous turnaround in a world economy which is in very poor shape."

As evidence, he cited South Africa's balance of payments position, which from a deficit on current account on an annual seasonally-adjusted basis of about seven billion rand (\$6.5 billion) in the first quarter of last year had turned into a surplus of one billion rand in the last quarter.

Our own initiative." Reserve Bank Governor Gerhard de Kock, who flanked Mr. Horwood, said the IMF would welcome the move. "It is absolutely in line with what they want."

Mr. Horwood said the immediate impact of the new measures was impossible to predict.

He thought there might be a slight easing of the rand, even on Monday, and share prices might also move down temporarily.

But he was sure both would recover quickly.

On a cautionary note, Mr. Horwood warned that the monetary authorities should not lose control over money supply, credit and interest rates in the months ahead.

The need to maintain monetary stability and curb inflation — still too high at about 13.8 per cent a year — played a major part in the government's decision to scrap controls for non-residents, he said.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEB. 7, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day of mixed influences as the early day brings you some unexpected benefits, so be alert to accept them. Much patience on your part is required now to gain your true aims.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Your hunches are good early in the day, so be sure to follow them. Handle all duties painstakingly and get excellent results.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A charming person can be very helpful to you early in the day. Take extra time to improve your appearance. Express confidence.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A good deal of work can be accomplished today by making proper plans. Rid yourself of whatever deters progress.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Try to be more helpful in your relationship with co-workers. Study reports and make sure they are accurate.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Go to the proper sources for the information you need. Financial affairs are best handled later in the day. Be more optimistic.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You could get a pleasant surprise early in the day, but could become frustrated over a minor matter later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are able to reach a personal aim early in the day, but later unexpected difficulty arises. Relax at home tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You are able to gain some aim that means much to you today. Avoid one who could harm you in some way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get in touch with as many friends as you possibly can and come to a better understanding with them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Find a better system for handling your mounting financial affairs. Sidestep a foe who keeps annoying you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find the right way to gain your fondest aims and don't let others stop you. Be sure to improve your appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A day when you can use more imagination and get excellent results in career activities. Strive for increased happiness.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those fascinating young persons who will have a great interest in social activities and would do well in humanitarian work. Be sure to prepare a good education that will help bring this about.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

Australia opens door to foreign banks

SYDNEY — In Australia the weather is a political issue, so it is hardly surprising the announcement that about 10 foreign banks were to be allowed into the country as a possible heralding of the opening up of the market fully to overseas competition should be regarded as a victory for Mr. John Howard, the federal treasurer.

The entry of foreign banks was the key recommendation of the Campbell Committee of Inquiry into the Australian financial system, which published its report 14 months ago.

Some within the treasury were not impressed with the foreign banks argument, but Mr. Howard has succeeded in his quest — overcoming opposition from within his own department and from parts of the ruling Liberal National Party coalition, some members of which feared that the entry of foreign banks might cost it votes in this year's general election.

The significance of Mr. Howard's success on the foreign banks issue lies in his position as deputy leader of the Liberal Party and the heir apparent to Mr. Malcolm Fraser, prime minister.

This bodes well, it is widely thought, for further progress along the road to the Campbell report vision of a more efficient, dynamic and equitable Australian

financial system.

Further details of the entry requirements for foreign banks followed.

Mr. Howard said that successful applicants would be required to establish reasonable branch networks, and that other criteria the government would consider included the level and quality of the Australian equity proposed; the standing and substance of the foreign banks' principals; range and depth of services offered, including branch networks; nature and scale of operations proposed; geographical spread, and whether there was full reciprocity of bank entry in the countries concerned.

Less important, said Mr. Howard, would be the applicants' former or current involvement in non-bank financial institutions in Australia, and other financial links with the country, including past involvement in government and private sector fund-raising.

As a criterion, "geographical spread" is being taken to imply that the initial 10 or so banks granted Australian licences will include at least three from Asia, at least three from North America, and at least three from the EEC.

Mr. Howard says: "Potential applicants are invited to submit to me an outline of their longer-term objectives in a detailed plan of intended activities over an initial

— say five-year — period, together with an assessment (in detail) of how their participation would benefit the Australian economy."

Within minutes of Mr. Howard's announcement, which took Canberra by surprise, Bank of America was the first to say it would be applying for a licence under the terms outlined by the government.

A long list, growing by the hour, of other leading candidates included: Citibank, Chase Manhattan, Bank of Montreal and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

From Britain there were Barclays, National Westminster, Lloyds, Midland Bank, Samuel Montagu, Morgan Grenfell, Standard Chartered and Hill Samuel.

Deutsche Bank (which has long played a major role in Australian government fund-raising) was among European contenders, as well as Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Banking Corporation, Dresdner Bank and Amro Bank.

Bank of Tokyo, Mitsui Bank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Sumitomo, and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation are the leading Asian candidates.

It could be a lengthy business, particularly as numerous foreign banks already have close ties with Australia.

Bank of America, for example, has a merchant banking subsidiary, BT Australia, while Citicorp Australia (at present 100 per cent owned by Citicorp of the U.S.) has a chain of about 40 retail money shops, employs 1,400 and has assets of A\$2 billion (\$1.77

billion). In turn, it owns a 49.9 per cent stake in Citibank, the merchant bank, with National Mutual Life of Australasia owning the remainder.

Other foreign groups that already operate merchant banks in partnership with Australian interest include Samuel Montagu, Morgan Grenfell, Chase Manhattan and Bank of Tokyo, while Hill Samuel Australia is prominently positioned, as a result of its pioneering of cash management trusts in Australia.

Thirteen Japanese trading banks have representative offices in Australia, and Standard Chartered has a finance subsidiary with a strong branch network.

Earlier, it was announced that Algemene Bank of Holland, was taking a 50 per cent stake in Alpine Finance, a subsidiary of Mr. Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings. Alpine will be renamed ABN Australia. It has leasing and commercial hire purchase interests, and will also become involved in money market operations and corporate lending. Its capital base is to be expanded to at least A\$10 million.

A crucial issue for most contenders will be the degree of local equity participation required by Mr. Howard in the new ventures.

The treasurer said that the policy regarding local equity participation would be basically the same as that applying to non-bank financial intermediaries — which allows scope for entry "on the basis of less than 50 per cent Australian equity where net economic benefits outweigh the general desirability of an effective partnership between Australians

and foreigners."

The other major stipulation is that foreign banks wishing to operate in Australia provide a wide range of services, and a reasonable branch network.

It is also unclear whether the treasurer envisages a gradual or mass entry of the chosen 10 into Australia, but it is thought likely that application will be processed by the middle of the year, given the intense lobbying by foreign bankers to which Canberra has already been subjected.

However, Mr. Howard has said that it will be "some time, but certainly less than five years," before the government considered admitting any more.

There has been only one new trading bank licence granted in Australia since 1945 — to the Australian Bank, which received its licence in February 1981 after putting together a bank of 19 shareholders, including Swan Brewery and Myers Emporium, and raising A\$30 million (\$29.7 million) in initial capital.

In addition, there has been a contraction in the number of major trading banks operating in Australia, so that now there are only four: Westpac (formed from the merger in 1981 of the Bank of New South Wales and Commercial Bank of Australia).

National Commercial Banking Corporation of Australia (formed from the merger of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney and the National Bank of Australasia), Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, and the government-owned Commonwealth Banking Corporation.

It was this background, said Mr. Howard, that underlined the need for foreign competition.

To date, the Australia banking market has been cloistered, cosy, and highly profitable — though margins are under pressure, at present.

Westpac, for example, recorded a net profit of A\$215.6 million in the year to last Sept., up by 0.5 per cent higher than the estimated combined profit of A\$214.4 million for Bank of New South Wales and Commercial Bank of Australia in 1980-1981.

Similarly, ANZ's net profit for the year to last Sept. was A\$180.5 million, against A\$174.4 million previously.

At the same time, Mr. Howard is determined to encourage (or at least not discourage) the formation of new domestic banks.

He said that the government would continue to impose no restrictions on new banks with only domestic shareholdings.

Indeed, to help the cause, he would amend, if necessary, the banks' (shareholders) rules so as to remove "any particular limit on individual shareholdings while maintaining the government's right to approve all substantial shareholders in a bank."

The current limit on individual shareholdings in domestic banks is 10 per cent.

For some, the government is still moving too slowly.

Mr. Bob White, chief executive of Westpac, said it was a major disappointment that the treasurer had not, in addition to letting in foreign banks, lifted the controls on all bank lending below A\$100,000.

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THE Daily Crossword

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WORLD

Paraguay's general set to win

ASUNCION (R) — President Alfredo Stroessner, unchallenged ruler of Paraguay for 28 years, looked set to cruise into a seventh term of office Sunday after warning exiled opponents against sneaking into the country during general elections.

Leaders of minority opposition parties, many of them expelled by the Stroessner security machine, have denounced the elections as a sham.

They say they will return home when polling booths open this morning in a symbolic gesture "to demonstrate there is no democracy in Paraguay."

Although the state of siege in Paraguay's riverside capital was lifted for 24 hours from midnight, Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro said any attempt by exiles to enter the country by air or across the borders from neighbouring Argentina and Brazil would be quashed.

The threat to defy the government has come from leaders of four minority parties.

They are boycotting the elections, which pit the Liberal Party and Radical Liberal Party against the ruling Colorado (Red) Party of General Stroessner, who seized power in a coup in 1954 and has been re-elected regularly ever since.

The minority parties, which the government says do not have the necessary 10,000 members to put up candidates, are joined in a

centre-left "national accord". Many of their leaders either live in voluntary exile or have been deported.

Brazil-based exiles have refused to talk openly to the Paraguayan press about their plans, which has led to speculation that they will try cross the border in secret.

At a press conference in Buenos Aires on Friday night, reported by daily newspapers here Saturday, an exiled leader of the popular Colorado Movement (Mopoco) said the mission, called "Operation Return", was one of peace and goodwill.

Rejecting the interior minister's description of them as "subversive deportees", the exiles said: "The only weapon we carry is the truth and the right to live in our homeland."

Colorado Party leaders are confident the 70-year-old president will collect 94 percent of the poll. In 1978, his party won 89 percent of the vote with the Radical Liberals taking 5.5 percent and the Liberals less than four percent.

To ensure electors take the day seriously, police have slapped a nationwide ban on the sale of alcohol and the staging of films, plays and sports tournaments.

The elections have prevented most citizens of Asuncion, the country's only major city with a population of 700,000, from taking advantage of spending a long week-end in the country as part of a public holiday which began on Thursday.

Shultz in Seoul to reaffirm military ties

SEOUL (A.P.) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz flew here Sunday to signal what he called an unshakable commitment to South Korean security and "to pay my respects to the U.S. troops" who give that commitment its credibility and military punch.

Fresh from four days of talks with the highest leaders of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Shultz said that the areas of U.S.-Chinese agreement "appear to be much greater than the areas of disagreement."

"If we can maintain the spirit of the dialogue established in the last four days, we will gradually make headway in solving the problems," Mr. Shultz said in an airborne news conference aboard the air force jet taking him from Peking to Seoul.

In Seoul, he will meet with President Chun Doo-Hwan at the Blue House presidential residence and hold separate sessions with Prime Minister Kim Sang-Hyup and Foreign Minister Lee Bum-Suk.

Basques apologise for killing bank employees

BILBAO, Spain — The separatist guerrilla group ETA has claimed responsibility for a bomb attack against a Bilbao bank Saturday but apologised for the death of two workers and wounding of seven, a Basque newspaper said Sunday.

The hardline military wing of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) said in a statement the bomb should not have exploded during working hours and may have been set off by unexpected manipulation, the daily *Egin* added.

"This explanation does not diminish our responsibility or justify an act which has caused so much suffering to the Basque working class," EGA said according to the paper.

The explosion, just before 0900 GMT, ripped through the foreign exchange department on the first

floor of the Banco de Viscaya's tower block in central Bilbao.

The Viscaya province's labour unions have called a banking strike Monday over the attack and the Basque country's parties, with the exception of the radical Herri Batasuna, will hold a protest demonstration.

The attack came three days after an initiative aimed at ending separatist violence collapsed over the ETA killing of a Civil Guard in the Basque town of Ordizia.

The proposed talks would have included the ruling Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), the Basque Socialists and Herri Batasuna, regarded as ETA's political arm. But the Socialists pulled out after the attack and PNV leader Carlos Garaiochea, head of the regional government, said it was impossible to go ahead while violence continued.

The bishop vowed to "oppose moral degradation" and urged believers in this predominantly Roman Catholic country to express disagreement and refuse

to cooperate in the practice of abortion.

The Socialist government is relying on its absolute parliamentary majority to push through reforms, mild by West European standards, to Franco-era abortion laws which provide for long prison terms.

But officials admit some Socialist votes could go against them and expect a major offensive from the main opposition party, the rightist Popular Alliance (AP), and organised "right-to-life" groups.

The Socialists also face opposition from leftist groups who consider the proposed changes too mild and from doctors' associations, already at odds with the government over moves to keep physicians from holding more than one state-paid job.

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Spanish state, church at odds over abortion

MADRID (R) — The battle lines for Spain's abortion war have been drawn with the church declaring active opposition to push through reforms, mild by West European standards, to Franco-era abortion laws which provide for long prison terms.

In a strongly-worded document issued Saturday night, the Episcopal conference said the bill, allowing abortion in cases of rape, malformation or where the mother's life was in danger, "would allow the norm to be used in cases where it apparently does not apply."

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Unscrupulous Greek ship owner jailed for 16 months

PIRAEUS, Greece (R) — A Greek shipowner who abandoned a crew in the Gulf War zone and left an unpaid wage bill of 21 million drachmas (\$250,000) was jailed for 16 months and fined by a court in Piraeus.

But the judge rejected the crew's claim that a British bank which lent the shipowner, Ioannis Chrisospatis, \$10 million was also responsible for their plight.

He found that John Alcock, Piraeus manager of Williams and Glyn's Bank, his assistant Stephen Funnell and his Greek employee Alexis Rodopoulos were not responsible for the management of the 4,486-ton Nicholas X.

A state prosecutor, acting for the seamen, took Chrisospatis and the three bank officials to court after they failed to receive outstanding wages.

Chrisospatis appealed against the jail term and a 1.8 million drachma (\$21,400) fine, but was

remanded him in custody pending the appeal hearing.

Seamen had to be held back from physically assaulting him as he was led out of court.

The 14 crewmen said they had been unloading iron from Turkey at the Iranian port of Bushehr last December when they heard from Chrisospatis that he could no longer pay their wage and they would have to deal with the bank.

The men said they risked their lives by defying an Iranian court order not to leave the port and taking the ship, with almost no food on board, as far as the entrance of the Suez Canal.

George Iosifides, an employee of Chrisospatis who signed the agreement hiring the seamen, was sentenced in his absence to eight and a half months in jail and fined 750,000 drachmas (\$8,900).

The judge issued an order for the arrest of Iosifides.

Turkish officials say they have found no criminal record for Savas

Congress (I) leads in Delhi polls

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party established an early lead Sunday when first results were declared from Saturday's local Delhi elections.

With counting for six seats on the 100-seat municipal corporation complete, the Congress (I) had taken four and the right-wing opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) two.

On the 56-member Delhi Metropolitan Council, the Congress Party secured three of the first five seats declared, with the other two going to the BJP.

A victory in Delhi is important for Mrs. Gandhi following big defeats for Congress in two former bastions in South India in state elections last month. All results are expected to be declared Sunday.

In the northeast state of Assam, a Congress candidate for the state elections later this month was wounded when a bomb exploded in his car Saturday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

At least 12 people have been killed and dozens wounded in pre-election violence in Assam during the last four days.

Curtails have been imposed on Tanga and two other towns. In Tanga, police shot dead at least four people when 1500 people attacked a police station.

On Wednesday another Congress (I) candidate, former Supreme Court Judge Baharul Islam, was wounded when two homemade bombs were thrown at his car.

PIT said home and offices of Congress Party officials had also been attacked in the run-up to Assam's mid-month voting.

There is widespread Assamese opposition to the inclusion of illegal immigrants, mostly Bangladeshis, on electoral rolls.

The attacks, apparently inspired by groups opposed to the elections, present a security headache for police preparing for a visit to Assam by the prime minister on Thursday and Friday.

Militant Assamese political and student groups have urged a boycott of the poll, demanding that Bengali-speaking immigrants be removed from the rolls and expelled from the state.

The government has decided to send extra paramilitary police to the state to help quell the violence before the elections, due to start on Feb. 14.

Even Turkey puzzled by Mustafa Savas

ANKARA (R) — Mustafa Savas, the Turk charged by Milan Police Sunday with inciting another person to kill Pope John Paul II is a mystery figure in his own country.

"We are not even sure of his identity," a Turkish foreign ministry spokesman told Reuters.

Savas was charged with incitement to commit a crime, criminal conspiracy and drug offences.

Milan police said another man, Antonio Armeli Grigi, alleged he was offered \$200,000 by Savas to kill the Pope during a scheduled visit to Milan by the pontiff later this year.

The news of Savas' detention earlier this week has puzzled Turks, in contrast to the arrest in May 1981 of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk convicted of shooting the Polish pontiff in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Turkish officials say they have found no criminal record for Savas

Stranded Kampuchean find haven in Thailand

BANGKOK (R) — Over 20,000 Kampuchean refugees stranded on the Thai-Kampuchean border were evacuated to safety in Thailand Sunday as fighting between Vietnamese-led troops and Kampuchean guerrillas subsided, Thai military sources said.

They said Thai soldiers early

biggest so far in the current dry season. Hanoi's forces are backing the Heng Samrin government in Phnom Penh against some 3,000 guerrillas of resistance leader Son Sann, prime minister of the United Nations-recognised coalition government of Democratic Kampuchea.

As border fighting entered its fifth day Saturday, Thai and Vietnamese troops exchanged artillery and mortar fire.

Thai sources said more Vietnamese attacks were expected against a string of bases held by Son Sann's Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) just inside Kampuchea.

Thailand has protested to the United Nations at the Vietnamese offensive, saying it threatens Thailand's security.

Thailand will raise the question of the offensive during talks with Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa, who arrives in Bangkok Monday for a three-day visit. Mr. Kapitsa will visit Hanoi later.

Tokyo seeks Moscow's understanding on defence

UTSUNOMIYA, Japan (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said Sunday the Soviet Union should understand that Japan's defence efforts were only to maintain peace under its war-renouncing constitution.

Soviet ambassador Vladimir Pavlov protested formally to the Japanese government on Friday at what he called increasing Japanese militarism.

In an apparent reference to the protest, Mr. Nakasone told a press conference: "Japan has been making its efforts only for the purpose of peace to defend its people's lives and property under the constitution. I want the Soviet Union to understand this way of thinking."

Mr. Nakasone said Japan also had to keep four small islands off eastern Hokkaido, the country's northern main island, as its territory. The Soviet Union has occupied the island, Kunashiri, Etorofu, Habomai and Shikotan, since 1945, and says it has territorial dispute with Japan.

"The solution of the territorial problem is the focal point in negotiations with the Soviet Union. I would like to seek a solution," Mr. Nakasone said.

He said Susumu Nakaido, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, would go to Peking soon to assure China that Japan's defence policies remained with its constitution.

Probe under way to link Karen Carpenter's death with slimmer's disease

LOS ANGELES (R) — Coroner's officials are examining the possibility that singer Karen Carpenter, who died Friday of an apparent heart attack, was the latest victim of anorexia nervosa, the so-called "star's disease", a coroner's spokesman said.

Medical authorities estimate that anorexia nervosa — compulsive dieting leading to starvation — afflicts one in every 200 women in the city, including aspiring actresses.

"A link between Miss Carpenter's death and anorexia nervosa is under study," a coroner's spokesman said.

Miss Carpenter, 32, who with her brother, Richard, formed the Carpenters — one of the most successful pop music groups of the 1970s — died at Downey Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles of heart attack.

Her personal manager, Jerry Weintraub, revealed she had been treated for anorexia nervosa for the past 18 months.

"She had lost a considerable amount of weight over the past year," he said. "But she had gained much of it back."

Coroner's assistants said Miss Carpenter, 1.6 metres, weighed 48 kilograms when she died.

A two-hour post mortem carried out on Miss Carpenter Saturday night showed no immediate cause of death, a coroner's office spokesman said.

"A preliminary report showed there were no external injuries and there will be continuing laboratory tests and other studies..." he said.

Dr. Joel Yager, director of the eating disorder clinic of the University of California in Los Angeles, said between five and 15 per cent of the women in the city who suffer from anorexia nervosa die of the illness.

"The number of cases is especially high in Los Angeles because of the image-conscious nature of the city, with its film and television studios," he said.

Security companies are also finding it hard to recruit guards for industrial and domestic premises.

Ghanaians and people from Niger dominated the business, but Ghanaians appear unwilling to take the sub-minimum wages accepted by the aliens. The minimum wage is currently 120 naira (\$180) a month.

Diplomats here say external repercussions are likely to be much more negative.

Nigeria, since the return of civilian government in 1979 after 13 years of military rule, has been held up as a leading example of democracy in Africa. As the richest black African country, it has played a leading role in continental politics and is regarded by many moderate states as an "elder brother".

That image looks certain to be denied. Liberian head of state

Samuel Doe was quoted as saying

that Nigeria had become a dis-

appointing example to Africa and

expressed fear that other Afri-

can states might retaliate by expell-

ing Nigerian living, often illeg-

ally, in other parts of West Africa.

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